

REMARKS

The Examiner's Office Action of September 28, 2004 has been received and its contents reviewed. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the consideration given to the above-identified application.

Claims 1-3 and 10-24 are pending for consideration, of which claims 1-3 and 11-16 are independent. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims.

Referring now to the detailed Office Action, claims 1, 2, 11-16 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mano et al., hereinafter Mano (USP 6,294,796). Also, claims 2, 3, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mano as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of the Japanese patent [4]04152676A. Additionally, claims 10 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Japanese patent '676, as applied to claims 1-3 above, and further in view of the Japanese patent 2001028338. Applicants assume that, with regard to the rejection of claims 10 and 17, the Mano patent (rather than Japanese patent 2001028338) was meant to be indicated since Mano is employed in the rejection of claims 1-3. If this assumption is incorrect, Applicants respectfully request further explanation in the next Office Action.

Additionally, Applicants note that dependent claim 18 was not rejected under art in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants assume that this claim is allowable. Applicants respectfully request an indication of allowable subject matter in the next Office Action if this is the case. Alternatively, Applicants respectfully request a non-final action providing a detailed discussion regarding the rejection of claim 18.

Turning now to the rejections, claims 1, 2, 11-16 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mano et al. In the rejection, the Examiner is again contending that Mano discloses, in Fig. 6e, a portion of the channel region 302a is concaved shaped in the channel width direction being parallel to a plane of the substrate. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the structure of the Mano device is not the same as currently set forth in independent claims 1-3.

In an effort to more clearly show the differences, Applicants have provided a sheet (attached hereto) illustrating an exemplary aspect of the present invention in contrast with

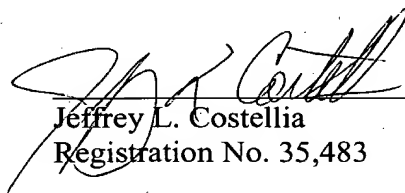
FIG. 6e of Mano. The claimed "concave or convex" characteristic of the present invention is best shown and understood when viewing the TFT from the top of the transistors (as illustrated in FIG. 1C, for example). Note that support for FIG. 1C, in the present specification, is provided at page 5, line 20 through page 6, line 26. As shown in the present invention and set forth in claim 1, a portion of the channel region is convexed or concaved in a channel width direction, said channel width direction being parallel to the plane of the substrate.

Conversely, the channel region 302a of Mano appears to be concaved in a film thickness direction that is perpendicular to the channel width direction rather than the claimed channel width direction. Thus, Applicants submit that Mano does not teach or suggest that a portion of the channel region is convexed or concaved in a channel width direction, said channel width direction being parallel to the plane of the substrate, as set forth in independent claims 1-3. In view of the above, we believe that this rejection should be traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the dependent claims, are allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with regard to their respective independent claims as well as for reasons of their own.

While the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise which could be eliminated through discussions with Applicants' representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey L. Costellia
Registration No. 35,483

NIXON PEABODY LLP
Suite 900, 401 9th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2128
(202) 585-8000
JLC/BCO